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LESSON LEARNED

Volunteer Coordination: Creating a Staging Area for Full-Scale Exercise Participants

SUMMARY

Exercise planners should consider creating a staging area for participants acting as victims or other injects prior to a full-scale exercise (FSE). Such an area allows planners to register volunteers and give them information and materials needed for their FSE roles.

DESCRIPTION

On June 7, 2005, Volusia County, Florida hosted a FSE simulating a man portable air defense systems (MANPADS) attack on a commercial airliner departing from Daytona Beach International Airport. The intent was to improve cooperation between agencies likely to participate in a Volusia County ocean mass casualty incident (MCI). The FSE focused on the triage and treatment of MCI victims on or near a quarter-mile portion of Daytona Beach.

Over 300 people were involved in the FSE, 140 as exercise "actors," individuals playing victims or other exercise injects. Each actor filled out paperwork, such as registration forms and waiver agreements, before taking part in the FSE. In addition, actors needed direction on where they should go and how they should act during the FSE.

Exercise planners created a staging area at an elementary school. There, actors completed paperwork, received a manual that outlined important aspects of the FSE, and were given verbal instruction on their specific role(s). They also received appropriate makeup and/or clothing. After the briefing, actors were transported by bus to the exercise location.

Exercise planners should consider creating a staging area for participants acting as victims or other injects prior to a FSE. The area should be large enough to accommodate all the actors and include basic amenities such as toilets and air conditioning/heat. Additionally, transportation should be provided between the staging area and the exercise location.

CITATION

- Mauney, James. Deputy Fire Chief, Volusia County Emergency Management. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*. July 13, 2005.

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